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ALFRETON URBAN DISTRICT.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FOR YEAR 1925.

TO WHICH IS ADDED A SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY
THE SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CERTAIN DETAILS BY
THE SURVEYOR FOR THE SAME YEAR.

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ALFRETON URBAN DISTRICT.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR YEAR 1925.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Alfreton
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

The Report for 1925 is, by order of the Ministry of Health, a Survey Report; that is to say, it should deal with:—

(a) The measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of public health.

(b) The extent and character of the changes made during the period in Public Health Services of the area.

(c) Any further action of importance in the organisation or development of Public Health Services contemplated by the local authority or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

The subjects are dealt with under the following heads:—

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

General provision of Health Services in the Area.

Sanitary Conditions of the Area.

Housing.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

General Statistics.

Area: Land, 4,625 acres; Water, 40 acres; Total, 4,665 acres.

Population: 1925, 21,900; 1921, 20,472.

Number of Inhabited Houses: 1925, 4,693; 1921, 4,503.

Rateable Value: 1925, £66,432 5s. 3d.; 1921, £61,695 6s. 6d.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate: 1925, £281 6s. 0d.

1921, £257 1s. 3d.

Amount of Poor Relief, 1925: £3620 15s. 9d.

Number of Families or separate Occupiers, 1921 census: 4,577.

Physical Features and General Character of the Area.

Elevation from 260 to 495 O.D.

Geology : Clay subsoil, middle and lower Coal measures.

The District consists of five populous areas, separated to a greater or less extent by agricultural land. The District is situated on the summit, south eastern, and southern slopes of an uneven plateau, which on the west is continued into the South Wingfield area of the Belper Rural District, and is separated by valleys on the east and south from neighbouring districts.

Coal is mined in all parts of the District, and there are Iron Works in two villages. In addition to agriculture, there are Chemical Works, Hosiery, Brick Works, Concrete Works, Perfumery Factories, and Earthenware Pipe Works. There is no reason to conclude that any of the occupations have a marked influence on the health of the inhabitants.

Vital Statistics.

Births.

		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	458	249	209
Illegitimate	...	12	8	4

Total : 1925, 470 ; 1920, 586.

Birth Rate : 1925, 21.46 ; 1920, 30.62.

Deaths.

Males, 135 ; Femals, 111. Total : 1925, 246 ; 1920, 229.

Under 1 year : 1925, 28 ; 1920, 47.

Death Rate : 1925, 11.23 ; 1920, 11.96.

Infant Death Rate : 1925, 59.5 ; 1920, 80.2.

Death Rates from various causes :—

Zymotic, .05. Diarrhœa, etc., .13. Phthisis, .82.

		Alfreton Urban District	County of Derby	England and Wales
Birth Rate	...	21.46	20.42	18.3
Death Rate	...	11.23	11.45	12.2
Infant Death Rate		59.5	78.4	67.

ALFRETON URBAN DISTRICT.

DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1925.

Causes of Death (Civilians only)					Males.	Females.	Total.
All Causes	...	...	...	...	135	111	246
1 Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2 Small Pox	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3 Measles	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
4 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
6 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7 Influenza	...	...	...	...	4	7	11
8 Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
9 Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
11 Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
12 Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	7	15	22
13 Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
15 Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	4	13	17
16 Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	23	20	43
17 Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	5	5	10
18 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	4	8
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	5	3	8
20 Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
21 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
22 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
23 Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
24 Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
25 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
26 Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
27 Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
28 Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	11	3	14
29 Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
30 Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	10	—	10
31 Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	36	24	60
32 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	...	...	Total	19	9	28
„ „ „	...	...	...	Illegitimate	1	—	1
Total Births	...	...	...	...	257	213	470
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	249	209	458
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	8	4	12
Population	...	...	...	...	21,900.		

Hospitals.

There are no Hospitals in the area provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council, or available for the area. The Hospitals available for the area are :—

1.—Tuberculosis. County Sanatorium, Walton ; Penmore Pavilion (for advanced cases) ; and the General Hospitals set out below.

2.—Maternity. The Ripley Maternity Home (eight beds), financed by the County Council ; and the General Hospitals (for cases of great difficulty or danger).

3.—Children. Children's Hospitals at Derby and Nottingham.

4.—Fever. Belper Isolation Hospital (in common with the Ripley Urban and Belper Rural Districts).

5.—Small Pox. As for Fever.

6.—Other Hospitals. Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, Nottingham General Hospital, and Chesterfield Royal Hospital. Special Hospitals (Women and Eye) at Nottingham and Derby.

There is no institutional provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, or Homeless Children in the area.

Ambulance Facilities.

1.—For Infectious Cases. Motor Ambulance of the Belper Isolation Hospital.

2.—For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases. All the Collieries and some of the large Works have their own Ambulances, chiefly motor vehicles.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres provided by County Council :—Somercotes, Salem School ; Alferton, Methodist Church ; Ironville, Schoolroom ; and Riddings, Congregational Room.

School Clinics, provided by County Council :—Chesterfield and Derby.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries, provided by County Council :—Chesterfield, Brimington Road.

Treatment Centres for Venereal Disease, provided by County Council :—V.D. Clinics at Chesterfield Hospital and Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, for out-patient treatment.

Public Health Officers of Local Authority.

Part Time.—Medical Officer of Health.

Full Time.—Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Half Salary of Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector paid by Ministry of Health.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

There are six District Nurses in the area, provided by :—Alfreton Nursing Association, Somercotes Nursing Association, Riddings Nursing Association, The Blackwell Colliery Co., Ltd., and Ironville. There is no co-ordination with the local Health Authorities.

Midwives practising in the Area.

There are 7 Midwives :—Alfreton, 3 ; Somercotes, 2 ; Ironville, 1 ; and Riddings, 1.

Chemical Work.

This is undertaken by the County Analyst. No work has been sent by the Staff of this District.

Legislation in Force.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, and The Notification of Births Act.

Bye-Laws and Regulations.

	Date of Adoption
New Streets and Buildings	1902
Prevention of Nuisances	1902
Tents, Vans, and Sheds	1903
Decent conduct of persons using Sanitary Conveniences	1902
Houses let as Lodgings	1902
Slaughter Houses	1902
Dairies and Cowsheds	1902
Bakehouses	1902
Offensive Trades	1900
New Streets and Buildings	1902 and 1914

Under present conditions there is no point at which the work of the Local Authority is directly related to that of the various other agencies dealing with the public health.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The District has three Water Supplies :—

- 1.—The Council's reservoirs at Lindway Lane and Butterley.
- 2.—The borehole at Lindway.
- 3.—By 8in. main from the Derwent Valley Water Board's trunk main at Codnor, through a service reservoir at Cotes Park. The whole District can be supplied from any of the three sources, assuming a sufficiency of water.

The supply is constant, sufficient, and of good quality. The shortages of past years, due to drought, will not recur now that the Derwent water is available.

The quantity of water supplied was 190,658,000 gallons. As the Derwent main will supply more than this if required (on short notice 250,000 gallons per day, equivalent to 91,000,000 gallons per annum, and up to the full capacity of the 8in. main on longer notice) a supply is assured, independent of the Council's water works.

The whole area is supplied by the Council, and, with few exceptions, the water is laid on to the houses. The water has no pluncho-solvent action, and no sources of contamination have required action during the year. There are no streams of any importance in the area, and none are used as water supplies.

A constant supply was maintained throughout the year. The Council requisitioned 50,000 gallons of water per day as an addition to the 170,000 gallons a day which was being supplied by the Derwent Valley Water Board and this became available on April 29th, 1925. As a consequence the supply was abundant and unrestricted during the summer months.

				gallons
Water supplied by the Derwent Valley Water Board				74,143,000
Water pumped at Lindway				35,727,000
Water from impounding reservoirs... ..				80,788,000
Total				190,658,000
Corresponding figures 1924				168,182,000
" " 1923				156,192,000
" " 1922				140,796,000
" " 1921				98,000,000
" " 1920				139,642,030

The following figures relate to the year ended September 30th, 1925, and are based upon the assumption that the population supplied by the Council is 20,000:—

Gallons supplied per head per day:—

For domestic and public purposes	...	...	16.704
For trade purposes	...	...	8.813
For all purposes ... ..	...	...	25.517

By comparison with the previous year the increase was

For domestic and public purposes	...	...	1.068
For trade purposes	...	...	1.058
For all purposes	...	...	2.126

Rainfall registered at Lindway (595 ft. above Sea Level).

Rain was registered on 34 days fewer than in 1924; the heaviest day's rain occurred on September 19th, (1.74 ins.).

Year	...	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920
Inches	...	34.04	37.63	36.79	37.21	25.32	38.48

The rainfall in 1925 was .06 of an inch above the average of the previous ten years.

Drainage and Sewerage.

With the exception of a few outlying premises, the whole District is sewered by the Council. The works at present in use, 13 in number, are all filters with rotary distributors, situated as follows:—Highfield, 3; Meadow Lane, 2; Swanwick, 4; Greenhill Lane, 1; Newlands, 1; Birchwood, 1; and Pye Bridge, 1.

Sewage Disposal.

No. 3 filter (75 feet in diameter) was completed at Highfield. A filter of similar size was under construction at Meadow Lane. The construction of percolating filters at the various sewage outfalls has proceeded systematically for many years, the preparation of the medium and its deposit in place is done when other work is not available, and serves to equalize the number of workmen in the Council's employ.

Sewerage.

A 9" stoneware pipe sewer (450 yards in length) was laid for the drainage of the Copthorne building estate, and a similar sewer 108 yards long was laid in the new streets extending Grange Street, Alferton.

Private Streets.

Notices were served under the Private Street Works Act, 1892, in respect of three streets in Alferton.

Pleasure Grounds.

At the Miners' Welfare Recreation Ground, Alferton, a bowling green, two hard tennis courts and two green tennis courts were laid down by the Miners' Welfare Committee and handed over to the Council. Swings and other appliances for

the amusement of children were provided and considerable progress was made in planting and laying out the ground. A contract for the erection of a sports pavilion was also let. At Swanwick a public recreation ground was opened under the management of the local Miners' Welfare Committee.

Scavenging.

This is done partly by the Council and partly by Contractors. The District is divided into seven districts; of these, four are scavenged by the Council, and three by the Contractors.

Approximately half the refuse is removed by each method. The contents of the ashbins and pits are deposited at seven tips, rented by the Council. The contents of the pail closets are removed during the night by Contractors in tank carts, and disposed of by the Contractors as land manure. Privy middens are emptied by the Contractors.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

The details of this Inspection are given in the attached report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Closet Accommodation.

	1925	1921
Water Closets .	2159 (approx.)	1514 (approx.)
Slop Water Closets .	57	57
Trough Water Closets	6	13
Pail Closets .	2693 (approx.)	2772 (approx.)
Privy Middens .	136	436

Annual conversions to Water Closets of:—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
Pail Closets .	11	18	12	37	13	91
Privy Middens .	5	31	10	97	37	180

All new houses have Water Closets. With regard to the number of Pail Closets, it is to be noted that in isolated houses, conversions have been made from Privy Middens to Pail Closets, as no Sewerage was available.

It is to be noted that there are 2,159 water closets and 2,892 of other types of closet. One of the chief goals of sanitary work in this District will be for many years the conversion of all these 2,892 closets to water carriage. But it must be borne in mind that it is a very slow and difficult work. The financial condition of property owners in these times (and for a long future), the ever-increasing demand for building and plumbing labour and material, the defective planning of house sites by our ancestors, and—until recent years—the uncertainty of our water supply, all these hindrances have to be overcome in every

case. Moreover, the case of what was once a scattered rural area is different from, and more difficult than that of a compact town. So that it appears inevitable that progress in this work will be slow.

Schools.

The sanitary condition and water supply of the Schools are satisfactory, and though the buildings are in some cases out-of-date, most of them are up to the average of the rest of the county, except where the buildings are of recent design. Plans are being prepared, I understand, to replace the least satisfactory Schools. The Medical Officer of Health has not recommended the closure of any Schools during the year. Epidemics, except of mild influenza, have not been very widespread, and such action as has been required has been taken by the Education Authorities.

Housing Statistics for the year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

- | | |
|--|----|
| (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) | 44 |
| (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :— | |
| (1) By the Local Authority | 4 |
| (2) By other bodies or persons | 40 |

1. Unfit dwelling-houses :—

Inspection—

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	215
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	25
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(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
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(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	0
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2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	10
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3. Action under Statutory Powers :—

(a) Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925	0
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(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
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1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	164
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2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	140
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(c) Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925	0

We had, at December 31st, 1925, 4,691 houses in the District.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

(Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances).

Premises	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers prosecuted
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	62	4	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	110	4	0
Workplaces (other than Out- workers' premises)	2	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	174	8	0

Defects found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—

Particulars	No. of Defects Found	No. of Defects Remedied	No. of Defects Referred to H.M. Inspector	No. of offences in respect to which Prose- cutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness	10	10	0	0
Want of ventilation	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0
Want of drainage of floors	1	1	0	0
Other nuisances	2	2	0	0

Sanitary accommodation :—

Insufficient	0	0	0	0
Unsuitables or defective	1	0	1	0
Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0

Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—

Illegal occupation of underground bake- house (s. 101)	0	0	0	0
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Other offences	0	0	0	0
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				

Total	14	13	1	0
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Housing.

The housing of the District as a whole is fairly satisfactory. Much work has been done during the last five years under the Housing Acts, and generally speaking, all absolutely essential work has been done. In a District which has been industrial for so many generations it is to be expected that many of the houses are of a type that in few respects satisfy modern ideals, but here again the District compares favourably, with some exceptions, with other similar Districts.

Extent of Shortage of Houses.

The average number of inhabitants per house, of all classes, in the District is 4.45. At present I have not the figures of the number of members of families or separate occupiers, but I think the average family is considerably less than 4.45. A large number of families consists of a man and wife and one or two children. The birth rate has fallen by over 9 per 1000, and the population increased by 1400, so that obviously families are smaller than in 1921.

A large number of houses in the District—I do not know how many—are occupied by more than one family, and herein lies overcrowding, but on the other hand the families are smaller. There is no indication of any large increase in the population in the future; in fact, in view of the prospects of the Coal industry, a gradual emigration from the Coal areas to other industrial areas appears more probable. Building by private enterprise is proceeding well throughout the District.

During the year the number of new houses completed was 44. Of these, four were houses built for the Council under the Act of 1924; 33 were subsidised under the Act of 1923; six were ineligible for subsidy on various grounds; and one was a temporary structure. At the close of the year tenders were being invited for the erection of 16 houses at Victoria Street, Somercotes, and the Council had taken preliminary steps to build six more houses at Swanwick and ten at Lincoln Street, Alferton.

The average price per house, excluding the cost of land, roads, and sewers, at which contracts were let is shown below :

Alfreton	...	8 Houses	...	£517	0	0
Swanwick	...	4 do.	...	£524	10	0

During the year several attempts were made to secure land for building "Council" houses at Riddings, but without success. "Liability to subsidence" is, in a colliery district, a factor which operates against the provision of housing sites. At the end of the year there were over 200 names on the "waiting list" for Council houses.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

1. Milk Supply:—

Action taken as to tuberculous milk and tuberculous cattle...	0
Numbers of licences granted for the sale of milk under special designations, classified as in the Fourth Schedule to the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923 ; types of apparatus licensed for the pasteurisation of milk	... 0
Refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation	... 0
The summarized results of the bacteriological examination of samples of graded and other milk	... 0

2. Meat.—See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Number of private slaughter houses in use in the area at the dates mentioned :—

	1920	Jan., 1925	Dec., 1925
Registered . . .	4	2	2
Licensed . . .	18	17	17
	—	—	—
Total	22	19	19
	—	—	—

Milk Supply.

Milk is produced and brought into the District by a large number of persons, from farms of very various sizes and characters. The general conditions for the keeping of cows and the collection and distribution of milk are of the same indifferent order as obtains practically everywhere in the country, and the product, with a few exceptions, has the characteristics as to dirt and germs universally found.

57 persons are registered to sell milk in the District.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

	Cases notified in					Total
	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Deaths
Diphtheria . . .	84	49	25	40	25	9
Scarlet Fever . . .	43	49	36	44	44	0
Enteric Fever . . .	1	2	6	2	1	0
Puerperal Fever . . .	2	3	3	1	1	3
Encephalitis						
Lethargica	1	0	0	1	1	2
Ophthalmia						
Neonatorum	2	2	1	1	0	0
Dysentery	1	1	2	1	0	0
Small Pox	0	0	23	1	0	0
Tuberculosis--						
Pulmonary	10	22	8	16	7	52
Non-Pulmonary	2	6	6	4	4	

The figures with reference to Pneumonia, Erysipelas, and Chicken Pox have not been included, as notification of these diseases has been widely neglected in the District. In all, 165 notifications were received. During the period examined no notifiable disease has been seriously prevalent, and the mortality was low. In 1925 there were sent to Isolation Hospital, 21 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 3 cases of Diphtheria.

The figures suggest that there is little change in the methods of infection, and also that the methods of preventing epidemic conditions are fairly efficient.

Diphtheria.—Although apparently epidemic, has been easily controlled, not owing to prophylactic inoculation, which is not practiced, but to the precautions taken. A considerable proportion of the cases are isolated at home, and antitoxin is used in most cases. This is provided by the Sanitary Authority free of charge.

Scarlet Fever.—Shows a fairly constant incidence, and has been of a mild type. Where the circumstances are favourable, the cases are isolated at home, and it is unusual to get further cases from this class. Neither have there been any number of cases which might be attributed to infection by return cases from Isolation Hospital.

Enteric Fever.—The cases have been sporadic and the source of infection could not be traced.

Small Pox.—Outbreaks occurred in 1923. They occurred chiefly in the part of the District bordering on the Heanor Urban District, and were traced to that district. The outbreaks were quickly limited, in no case lasting more than three weeks, and no persons who were not contacts at the time of notification

developed the disease. One small outbreak was traced through Nottingham to Pinxton, in the Blackwell Rural District. All known contacts were isolated at home, vaccinated or re-vaccinated, and the houses disinfected at the end of the period of incubation. Little difficulty was experienced in carrying out these measures. The cases were mild, but in some the rash was very marked, though the constitutional symptoms and sequelae were not serious. There was no mortality. Accommodation was found for all cases at the Isolation Hospital, and the removal was very prompt. The case notified in 1924 was the last of one of the 1923 epidemics.

The County Council Health Authority provides, on demand, outfits for the examination of suspected cases of Diphtheria, Enteric, and Tuberculosis. Considerable use is made in the district of the sputum examinations for Pulmonary Tuberculosis, but not much for Diphtheria. Of Enteric there have been so few cases that no statement can be made.

All cases of infectious disease notified are visited by the Sanitary Inspector, who takes the necessary notes of the case, gives printed and oral instructions to the occupiers, and arranges for isolation of the cases, supervision of the contacts, and any procedure required with regard to the sanitary conditions of the premises. Disinfectants are provided by the Council, and disinfection of the premises on the termination of infection is done by the Sanitary Staff. Infected bedding, etc., is sent to the Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection, as there is no disinfectant in the area.

No use has been made of the Schick or Dick tests, or recent methods of immunisation.

No vaccinations have been done by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Influenza.—Epidemics have occurred every year, commencing in the early Autumn, increasing in distribution up to the early Spring, and gradually becoming less prevalent as Summer approached.

The type in this area has been mild, and the mortality, confined to the very young and very old, has been small. After effects appear to have been grave in proportion to the severity of the acute stage.

Inoculation has not been used to any appreciable extent.

Measles has appeared several times, and in some parts of the District has been fairly widespread, but there has been no great incidence, and the mortality has been very small.

Chicken Pox.—There have been epidemics of this disease. That occurring in 1923 somewhat added to the difficulty of diagnosing some of the cases. It would appear that no mistakes were made, as no series of Small Pox cases followed the decisions.

This disease was for some part of the period notifiable, but was not efficiently notified.

Whooping Cough.—Also of a mild type, with few deaths, was epidemic in one part of the District or another practically continuously.

As this District consists of several large villages, chiefly separated, but within short distances of one another, epidemics do not spread so rapidly as in a town, and are sometimes limited to one school area, at any rate for a considerable period. Moreover, when a disease does appear in the District, it is often a long time before it finally dies out, owing to the slow spread from one part to another.

Tuberculosis.

The incidence of Tuberculosis does not appear to have shown any decided tendency either towards diminution or increase.

Deaths from Tuberculosis:—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Pulmonary	9	5	12	8	7
Non-Pulmonary	5	2	1	6	4
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	14	7	13	14	11

No figures are available to me relating to the extent to which the means of early diagnosis at the Tuberculosis Clinics are used by practitioners in the area, but it appears that great use is made of the clinic. No systematic investigation of contacts is made—there is at present no organisation for the purpose—and indeed the history of the majority of the cases notified does not suggest home infection.

Almost all the cases are sporadic, and generally infection appears to be preceded by some other devitalising ailment.

Infectious Disease in 1925.

Notifications, excepting Tuberculosis:—

Small Pox	0
Scarlet Fever	44
Diphtheria	25
Enteric	1
Puerperal Fever	1
Erysipelas	7
Pneumonia	55
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0

Chicken Pox	12
Dysentery	0
Malaria	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0

No notifiable disease was widely prevalent, and the mortality was very small. The type of disease was mild and infection was fairly easily controlled.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Age	Periods	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
5	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	...	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
15	...	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0
20	...	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
25	...	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
35	...	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
45	...	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0
55	...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
65 and upwards		0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Totals		2	5	3	1	3	4	5	1
New Cases notified						...	11		
Deaths						...	13		

All cases of Tuberculosis notified are visited and the premises inspected ; advice, printed and oral, is given, and the premises are disinfected when the case terminates fatally. All cases certified as dying of Tuberculosis in this District have been previously notified.

It appears that this District is a good average example of an English Urban District. The death rates are fairly low, the birth rate is fairly high, the housing is better than in very many other districts, the sanitary work and water supply are good, and though the older houses are not up to modern standards, the number of really good houses is not inconsiderable, and is increasing ; and the sanitary conditions are being methodically improved.

SYDNEY O. BINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Health Department,
Council Offices,
Alfreton,

December, 1925.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Alfreton Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I am pleased to say that this Report for 1925 (my thirtieth Annual Report) is of a fairly satisfactory character, but there is still room for improvement. One of the greatest drawbacks has been the lack of builders to carry out repairs to properties. It appears to me that the majority of men prefer working on new buildings. I know that repairing buildings is not easy work, and very often when men have done their best to make a good job they have not always given satisfaction, but the owner often spoils the work by telling them it only requires this or the other, and trying to instruct how the work should be done. If only they would remember that men who have spent years in learning their trade are far more capable of executing the work, and know far better what is required to make a sound job, things would often be more satisfactory all round. After all, a good sound job always pays in the end.

Summary of Inspections, 1925.

Total number of Inspections	...	...	...	9,909
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	2,230
Butchers' Shops and Premises	...	...	..	196
Making up Rooms	...	...	...	261
Houses Inspected under Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act	...	...	...	25
Houses Inspected under Public Health Act	...	...	...	190
Infectious Cases	...	...	...	164
Fumigation of Infectious Rooms	...	...	...	80
Music Halls, Cinemas, etc.	...	...	...	79
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	8
Food Stores and Markets	...	...	...	108
Carbide and Petrol Stores	...	...	...	125
Work in Progress	...	...	...	280

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Tents and Vans	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	344
Pigstyes	...	...	...	...	...	...	565
Back Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Phthisis Shelters	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	120
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	354
Closets and Ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,185
Urinals	...	...	...	...	...	...	26

Housing.

Total number of Houses erected during the year ... 44
 Of these, four were Council Houses, 33 were Subsidised, six were not Subsidised, not being eligible on various grounds, and one was a temporary structure.

Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection:—

Total Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act)	...	...	...	...	...	190
Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded (under Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909)	...	...	...	...	...	25

Sanitary Work.

Interior of Houses.

New windows provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	20
Floors of houses repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dangerous and broken fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	...	...	13
Broken walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	8
Coppers renewed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective doors and frames	...	...	...	...	...	4
Repairs to kitchen and pantries	...	...	...	...	...	2

Exterior of Houses.

Defective roofs made waterproof	...	...	...	...	...	40
Defective eavespouting and down spouts repaired	...	...	...	...	...	16
Dangerous chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
Damp-proof courses inserted	...	...	...	...	...	2

Yards and Outbuildings.

Yards re-paved and repaired	26
Outbuildings repaired	...	...	...	65
Dirty yards and closets cleaned by tenants	...	...	...	3

Drainage.

Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	36
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	22
Sink waste pipes provided and repaired	...	...	...	9
New sinks provided	...	...	...	7
Drains tested	...	...	...	1

Water Closets.

New water closets erected	...	...	...	43
Additional water closets provided	...	...	...	8
Defective water closets repaired	...	...	...	4
Obstructed water closets cleared	...	...	...	2

Urinals.

Urinals cleaned and repaired	1
New urinals	...	...	...	1

Privies and Pail Closets.

Insanitary privies converted into W.C.'s	...	...	...	36
Offensive pail closets converted into W.C.'s	...	...	...	13
Defective closets repaired	...	...	...	16
New pans provided for pail closets	...	...	...	45
Additional water closets provided	...	...	...	8
Water closets provided for new houses	...	...	...	43

Ashpits and Dustbins.

Defective ashpits repaired	...	...	...	4
New dustbins provided	...	...	...	44

Keeping of Animals.

Nuisances from pig keeping	...	...	...	1
Nuisances from improper keeping of animals	...	...	...	1
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	60

Various.

Smoke nuisances dealt with	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	38

Conveniences.

At the end of 1925 we had in the District approximately :—

Privy middens	...	...	...	136
Pail closets	...	...	...	2,693
Slop water closets	...	...	...	57

Trough water closets	6
Water closets	2,159

Infectious Diseases.

Number of visits to infectious cases	164
Rooms disinfected after infectious diseases	80

As in previous years, disinfecting has been carried out by spraying and fumigating with Formalin Gas.

Summary of Registered Premises, 1925.

	Number	Inspections made	Notices served
Dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops	80	344	43
Bakehouses	14	65	2
Slaughter houses	19	2,230	12
Offensive trades	3	78	1
Common lodging houses	2	8	1
Workshops	60	174	8
Factories	12		

Bakehouses.

Number on register	14
Number of factory bakehouses... ..	6
Number of inspections made during the year	65

I found eight contraventions of laws, and these were remedied.

Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milkshops.

Number of cowsheds upon register	80
Approximate number of cows	449
Number of inspections made	344
Notices for limewashing and cleaning	42
Defective drainage	2
Other nuisances	10

Slaughter Houses.

There are 19 private Slaughter Houses in the District. 17 of these are Licensed and two are Registered. These I have visited at all hours.

Number of visits	2,230
Notices for cleaning	6
Limewashing	14
Miscellaneous	20

Food Supply.

Number of visits to markets and food stores	369
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Unsound Food.

During the past year I have examined a very large quantity of food, and the following amounts have been voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human food :—

Beef (English)	...	2,118½	lbs.
Beef (Imported)	...	234	„
Mutton	...	30	„
Pork	...	44	„
Beasts' Liver	...	590	„
Beasts' Lungs	...	21	sets
Pigs' Liver	...	46	lbs.
Tripe	...	160	„
Ham	...	14	„
Potatoes	...	1,456	„
Corned Beef	...	15	„
Tomatoes	...	60	tins
Pineapple	...	16	„
Crayfish	...	5	„
Pears	...	5	„
Peaches	...	5	„
Strawberries	...	5	„
Milk	...	4	„

Offensive Trades.

During the year I have made 78 inspections of premises registered for Offensive Trades, and have served one notice for limewashing.

Common Lodging Houses.

We have two Common Lodging Houses in the District, and these I have visited on eight occasions. They are not new buildings, but I am pleased to state that the occupiers endeavour to keep them in good order.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c.

I paid visits to the three wakes grounds and inspected the Vans, and I also made inspections of Vans encamped in various parts of the District. In all, I made 76 inspections, and gave instructions to the occupiers, which were observed.

Rag Flocks Act, 1911.

The local tradesmen insist upon a warranty being given with each supply, and no complaints have been received, therefore I have taken no samples.

Petroleum Acts.

125 visits have been paid to premises licensed for the storage of Petroleum and Carbide of Calcium. There are 31 stores

licensed for the storing of Petroleum, and the total capacity of the said stores is 14,630 gallons. Eight premises are licensed to store Carbide of Calcium, and the total amount stored is 1,296 lbs.

Supervision of Music Halls, Theatres, &c.

During the past year I have made 79 inspections of the three local Cinemas, both in the daytime and at the evening performances, and I am pleased to say that in every case the Management have endeavoured to keep them clean and healthy. I have no word of complaint to raise against them, and I trust they will endeavour to uphold the present standard.

Scavenging.

This important work has, during the past year, been fairly well carried out, considering the amount of difficulties met. Difficulties caused by untidy occupiers of premises who have an idea that "house refuse" means anything, and that it can be thrown down anywhere. This is a great mistake. They are weakening one of the principal levers of sanitation and health. I am very anxious to have clean premises, and I have made 4,185 inspections of closets and ashpits for the purpose of urging on this work. The districts scavenged by our own men are now about a weekly collection from ashpits, and the ashbins are emptied weekly. There is still a large quantity of material which finds its way into both ashpits and bins, which may well be objected to by the scavengers as not being within the meaning of the term "house refuse." Such material as plaster from walls, brick bats, wall paper torn from walls of rooms, garden refuse, such as grass cuttings, dead leaves, loppings of trees and shrubs, and straw. If occupiers would burn these it would be such a great saving of money, both in carting and tips.

During the year, 4,606 loads of dry refuse and 1,830 loads of night soil have been removed by horses and carts at an average cost of 6s. 9⁷/₈d. per load. This price includes the levelling of tips. The cost is made up as follows:—

						£	s.	d.
Manual labour	...	...	...	...	...	1,850	18	6
Keep of horses, including shoeing	...	...	...	...	...	241	0	6
Depreciation (carts, horses, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	65	0	0
Brushes	...	...	...	...	...	0	15	0
Paraffin	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	0
Colza oil	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	6
Harness oil	...	...	...	...	...	0	15	0
Shovels	...	...	...	...	...	1	13	0

Soap, Brasso, etc.	1	5	0
Repairs to lamps, and lamp glasses ...	0	15	6
Skips and pans	2	1	6
Repairs to harness	10	14	3
Repairs to carts	25	8	11
	<hr/>		
	£2,202	18	8
Less received for removal of trade refuse ...	7	6	0
	<hr/>		
	£2,195	12	8

The team has earned £22 14s. 4d. for work done for the Surveyor.

The motor men have collected and removed 2,054 loads of refuse at an average cost of 6s. 3 $\frac{7}{8}$ d. per load. The cost is made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Men's wages	404	7	9
Petrol	69	7	10
Oil and grease	12	14	11
Repairs	28	2	11
New tyres	39	8	10
Licences	25	5	0
Depreciation	70	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£649	7	3
	<hr/>		

The motor and men have earned £181 6s. 9d. for work done for the Surveyor.

Contractors' Prices.

The Contractors have removed 4,801 loads of refuse at an average cost of 4s. 10 $\frac{15}{16}$ d. per load. The figures show that the Contractors have done the work cheaper than direct labour, but there are three facts to be taken into consideration. First, their method is not so clean and regular as our method. The Contractors wheel out, but our men carry direct into the carts and are working hard to get round weekly. Of course, the Contractors could not do this at their price. Second, we have longer carting distances than the Contractors. Third, our loads are much larger than the Contractors. If we can get all refuse removed weekly, it will be a great help in reducing the fly pest, which is one of the enemies we have to fight. The average number of loads of refuse removed by all three methods during the year amounts to nearly three loads per house.

Detail of Farm Account.

Expenditure—						£	s.	d.
Chain harrowing and rolling	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Clearing fields of hemlock, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	5	6	10
Removing tree tops	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	8
Clearing dykes	...	...	...	...	...	0	15	0
G. Radford, for mowing	...	...	...	...	...	6	0	0
Hay making, manual labour	...	...	...	...	...	23	18	7
Team labour	...	...	...	...	...	8	0	0
Thatching stack, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	2
Refreshments	...	...	...	...	...	0	15	3
Manure carted from stables for 1926 crop	...	...	...	...	...	15	0	0
Carting and spreading manure	...	...	...	...	...	7	10	0
Rents and rates	...	...	...	...	...	30	0	0
						£104	0	6

Income from Sale of Produce—						£	s.	d.
18 tons of hay to team labour at £4 5s. per ton	...	...	...	...	...	76	10	0
6 horses grazing 11 weeks at 30s. per week	...	...	...	...	...	16	10	0
						£93	0	0

I estimate the stack of hay we have is worth £85.

Cost of horse keeping—						£	s.	d.
Corn	...	...	...	...	...	109	7	6
Hay	...	...	...	...	...	126	4	1
Grazing	...	...	...	...	...	20	0	0
Straw	...	...	...	...	...	16	6	7
Cutting and carting hay	...	...	...	...	...	8	9	3
Shoeing	...	...	...	...	...	54	10	7
Veterinary Surgeon's fee	...	...	...	...	...	26	0	0
						£360	18	0
Less received for sale of manure	...	...	...	...	...	20	6	0
						£340	12	0

In conclusion, I beg to tender my thanks to the Council and the Public Health Committee for the support afforded me in the discharge of the duties of my office.

Yours obediently,

JOB SPENCER,

Sanitary Inspector.



